

Dear Yiannis,

I have been following the PSB review with great interest not only as a television viewer but as MD of an independent television and radio production company based in Glasgow.

I would like to lend my support to any decisions to fund Channel 4 in terms of its commitment to Public Service Broadcasting. For me it is imperative that Channel 4 continues to commission programmes that reflect Britain and the world in areas that are not purely audience ratings led. That is what makes Channel 4 special as a broadcaster and often offers an alternative view and competition to the BBC. Programmes like Cutting Edge have taken on subjects Panorama wouldn't touch, and in the arts arena, Channel 4 will take chances the BBC won't and that should be applauded in my view. Not that one is necessarily better than the other, but the need for that broad range is vital across the networks.

Channel 4's policy to diversity on and off the screen is in my experience far more active than the BBC, giving a truer reflection of Britain as a whole. Based in Scotland, ie. outside of South East England, I am suppose more sensitive to this aspect, but it is so important.

I have produced programmes for the BBC and Channel 4, both for TV and radio, and was especially disappointed when Channel4radio was abandoned. This would have given BBC radio some much needed competition in the PSB sector, and in the way Channel 4 TV offers a distinct alternative PSB outlook to the BBC, the UK's radio map would have been much more varied and enhanced as a result.

As a company based in Glasgow, it is harder to make and maintain contacts with London commissioners. Channel 4, through their Nations and Regions directive, have always been way ahead in bringing commissioners to Scotland to meet the independent community. So I was delighted to see one of your aims in this review is to look at the production bases in the regions.

Personally I have received development help from Channel 4 for a radio comedy concept, which has been invaluable, and a great example of something which was simply not a BBC idea but for Channel 4. I do hope the necessary funding is found to help this kind of initiative develop. I have also been involved on panels here in Scotland through the 4Talent initiative and I can see how the investment in talent at that early stage leads to results, especially in the PSB sector. My concern would be that without funding for Channel 4, and in the present climate, avenues like this will be closed,

So I would back any decision Ofcom might make to recommend supporting Channel4 in its goal to continue to bring innovative PSB programmes to our television screens.

Yours sincerely,  
Nick Low (producer)  
Demus Productions